

Prepared Statement

of

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Before the

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and

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Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations

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Chairman McHugh, Chairman Smith, and Members of the Committees: It is a pleasure to be here today and provide you with an overview on government action to combat human trafficking.

I would like to acknowledge and greatly thank the Congress for making human trafficking, or modern-day slavery a high priority. Because of Congressional support, the 2000 TVPA and subsequent reauthorizations to the law produced tremendous action around the world. Having just released our sixth annual *Trafficking in Persons Report*, we are combating human trafficking around the world by punishing traffickers, protecting victims and mobilizing U.S. government agencies to wage a global anti-trafficking campaign. Thanks to your pro-active efforts and advocacy for anti-trafficking measures, modern-day slavery is finally receiving world-wide attention with quantifiable results.

In addition to my role as director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the State Department, I serve as chairman of the Senior Policy Operating Group, which implements the policies set forth by the President's Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons headed by Secretary Rice. Each of our 11 government agencies involved in anti-TIP

efforts, including the Department of Defense, has a strategic plan to guide its actions to end modern-day slavery. This is good for accountability and for maximizing our success against human trafficking here and abroad. As Secretary Rice said earlier this month, “protecting the non-negotiable demands of human dignity is the equal calling of every country... including the United States.”

Historically speaking, the trafficking of human beings has followed market demand. In times of conflict, this has often translated to an increase of sex trafficking victims to meet a demand where a multitude of military personnel and international workers operate. While stories persist about some peacekeepers violating the human rights of those people they are entrusted to protect, I am pleased to report that the U.S. Defense Department has taken proactive steps to combat human trafficking through preventive approaches and policy measures. When compared with militaries around the world, the U.S. military stands at the forefront of armed forces that are instituting serious change to ensure their personnel standards and contracting policies are aligned to combat modern-day slavery.

While DoD will discuss their multi-pronged approach in greater detail, I would like to highlight an example of swift and comprehensive action that the Defense Department recently enacted to ensure their standards are aligned with the President's "zero tolerance" policy on human trafficking.

After late 2005 allegations of labor trafficking in Iraq, DoD launched an investigation and found that a number of abuses were committed by Defense contractors or subcontractors of third country workers. Some of those abuses were indicative of human trafficking and included illegal confiscation of worker passports and deceptive hiring practices.

In April 2006, General George Casey, commander of the Multi National Force-Iraq, issued specific labor guidelines to all Defense contractors including a mandate that all employees have full control of their passports. In addition, once the pending Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation (DFAR) clause becomes effective, DoD will have the authority to terminate those U.S. contractors and subcontractors that don't comply with Trafficking in Persons guidelines. These measures will work to ensure that the U.S. employs a "zero tolerance" policy against human trafficking abroad.

Such swift responses combined with Service-oriented training to ensure that military personnel, DoD civilians and contractors are educated on human trafficking, are vital to carrying out a real and comprehensive anti human-trafficking program.

We are encouraged by the progressive action taken within the past two years by Secretary Rumsfeld and stand ready to assist him and his agency achieve the President's and your mandate of abolishing modern-day slavery.